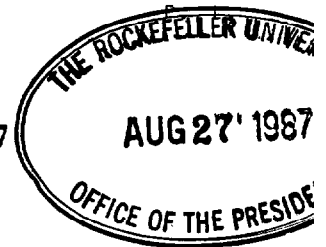


27 August 1987
by FAX

(X) ↓ ✓ 9/3/87
To: Joshua Lederberg
From: Robert Merton
About: An 8-page ms. entitled "Some thoughts on
the concept of sociological autobiography"

I realize that you are on the other coast these days going through the motions of an American vacation or a British holiday. No matter. There's no urgency about your seeing this piece. But for all the obvious reasons, I thought that you might like to glance at it. You'll notice that I've been quite up-to-date on pp. 4-5 in drawing upon that article in NATURE.

As you will soon gather, this was a prelude to a batch of papers by sociologists giving capsule autobiographic sketches -- "capsule..sketches"!!! -- at an annual meeting. The plenary session was at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings last spring. I had time-and-energy only for these short remarks; obviously this could be (should be?) greatly expanded and developed.

It is to appear in a volume of proceedings. Should you have any criticisms and suggestions for needed change or amplification, I'd appreciate them greatly. Meanwhile, do make a strenuous effort to have a relaxed vacation.

d. Richard.